WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Conscription Peril.

DEOMCRACY OR AUTOCRACY.

In less than a week's time you, as an individual member of the working class of Australia, will be called upon to decide the pregnant question of conscription.

Upon this decision rests the whole structure of our civil and industrial liberties.

If conscription should, unhappily, become the order of the day, then at one blow, the edifice of industrial liberties that has been raised by years of patient striving, suffering and bitter deprivation of the working class will be levelled to the ground.

Mr. Hughes, in an appeal to unionists to vote themselves into a state of industrial slavery, made the following statement:—

The wages and the industrial conditions you get you owe to the country which has sheltered you from the moment you were born, and but for whose support you would not have lived as free men for 24 hours."

This statement is a deliberate lie, and Hughes knows it well.

The wages and the industrial conditions obtaining in any country on the globe depends upon the state of capitalistic developments of a country and upon the industrial organisation of the working class by which power they can and do enforce their demands.

If we depend upon the Empire for the few industrial liberties we possess how is it that for many years the coal miners **appealed to the constitutional law of the Empire to enforce an eight hour bank to bank shift, and only obtained it by the strength of their industrial organisation in coming out on strike in defiance of the law of the Empire.**

If industrial "freedom" is a privilege peculiar to the British Empire how is it that in military ridden Germany the same "freedom" and union organisation exists?

If the Empire is so zealous in promoting the well being of the workers, how is it that Senator Pearce included a clause in the Defence Act for the suppression of industrial disturbances?

How is it that the law and the forces behind the law are used in a determined effort to keep the workers in a state of abject subjection?

The liberties enjoyed by the working class have been won and paid for by the lives and liberty of members of the working-class.

The following is one of the many reasonless ruses by which the conscript vote catchers endeavour to hoodwink the workers:—

BECAUSE

"Is there a man with soul so dead who never to himself has said this is my own, my native land," and was prepared to fight for it

Certainly I would fight for it, if I owned enough worth fighting for. Sidney Kidman owns 300,000 acres of Australia, and I find that he is fighting at home by lending out money to the Commonwealth Treasury at 5 per cent. free of income tax.

He who owns most, loves most, talks most, and fights least.

In an appeal to business men to vote "Yes" the following is cited from the "Herald":—

BECAUSE

It is a truism that trade follows the flag. It was Germany's appreciation of this fact that was the chief cause of the war.

BECAUSE

If it be really true that trade follows the flag then it rests with us to see that the flag is ours.

The plute press have been blinding the workers with a sea of words to the effect that the war is a fight for freedom, for civilisation, for the rights of small nations and so on; but the above remark proves that it is simply a fight for the possession of international markets and foreign trade. This fact alone should be of sufficient significance to open the eyes of the worker and induce him to vote "No."

The "Herald" in a recent article entitled "To working men: twenty reasons for voting "Yes," is guilty of the following "pearl":—

BECAUSE

Instead of conscription taking the privileges you have won, it is essential to their preservation.

What an insane contradiction. In England unionism is crushed. In fact officials are gaoled and deported for using a voice in protest. In France worse conditions exist, even school children slaving day and night in the munition factories. Speaking of France the following excerpt from the "Herald" is very interesting. It serves as a criterion of what might happen in Australia if we are drawn into the net of conscription.

CHINESE ARMY FOR WORK IN FRANCE.

A Washington message says it is understood that the Allies have endorsed a proposal to permit China to send 25,000 troops to France to take up secondary duties, releasing Frenchmen for the firing line. British officers speaking Chinese will be attached to the Chinese divisions. An international Allied commission will meet at Shanghai soon to decide what financial concession shall be made to China for her assistance against Germany. The import duties may be increased.

It is just as feasible and much easier to transport Chinese soldiers to Australia under the command of British officers speaking Chinese.

I have said before that conscription automatically introduces martial law, in fact, conscription is martial law.

Martial law means the absolute domination of a country by a military autocracy. It means the aboslute suppression of free speech and the abolition of the right of public assembly and freedom of the press.

Conscription means that militarism will ride iron-shod over the civil liberties of the people.

In England, freedom having England we are brought face to face with the following position ("Herald"):

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

The House of Commons agreed to disfranchise conscientious objectors for the duration of the war and five years thereafter, but objectors are not to be disqualified if they are doing work of national importance.

This treacherous piece of legislation deprives any man who is reasonable enough to refuse to participate in any military operations whatever, from the right of the franchise—a right for whose agitation many men of the Chartist movement were imprisoned. Mr. Hughes is thoroughly in accord with this harsh measure, and gave it his full endorsement through the medium of the daily press.

It has been said that if conscription is introduced it will be in force for the duration of the war only. what guarantee have we that such will be the case? On the contrary, it is very evident that conscription would prove such a powerful weapon in the hands of the master class (as it has in other countries) that once such a systematic form of slavery was introduced into Australia it would be practically impossible to get free of it.

The opinion of Benjamin Kidd, given in an interview to the "Daily News" London, on September 7, 1915, throws a good deal of light on the ulterior motives underlying the conscription issue in England. He says: I have not much hope that once compulsion is introduced we shall get rid of it after the war. **There are many of the advocates of conscription who press it for purely military reasons, but there are others—some of the chief of them frankly admitted as much to me—WHO DESIRE IT as the only weapon against the growing power of the trade unions. And it is in that direction that conscription must, in any case, inevitably tend.**

It is self evident that only one conclusion can be drawn from these facts, that conscription is aimed at the very heart of working class liberty, industrial organisation.

Politically, conscription is the last hope of W. M. Hughes and although the voice of the people will be heard in a thunderous "No" on the 20th of December, Hughes is scheming to force it on Australia in defiance of this verdict of public opinion. The following excerpt from a recent speech of the Prime Minister is nothing but a sinister threat:—

You have got to fight—make up your minds for that. If you reject these proposals I hold myself free to do that which I think necessary to be done.

On the face of this statement it is absolutely essential that the trade unions, anti-conscription leagues and all bodies opposed to conscription be prepared to take a definite stand in case of any emergency arising. It is only by keeping a solid front, backed up by concerted and decisive action can we hope to keep Australia free from the "crime of conscription."

In the present struggle, the attitude of the working class towards conscription and the war is summed up in the words of Jean Jaures:—

"At this moment. . when governments place more and more at the disposal of privilege and capitalism all their forces, both military and police, in order to suppress the workers who are claiming a little more of their due. . . it is imperative that the organised workers everywhere should signify to the capitalist classes that they have tolerated long enough a regime founded on the bondage and subjection of the producers."

Conscription means Prussian militarism transported from Europe to Australia.

Conscription means the abolition of all industrial rights and the right to organise.

Conscription means the introduction of women and child labor into industry.

Decide whether the future generation shall inherit the freedom of a peace loving democratic state or the slavish conditions enforced by a military autocracy.

The right to live as free men and women hangs in the balance.

Not only your own personal freedom but the freedom of your children depends upon the way you vote on the 20th.

Vote NO.

W. J. Thomas, 115 Goulburn St. Sydney.



The "Mighty Atom" again endeavours to Manacle Labor

Authorised by Ray Everitt, 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.

SOCIALIST BATTLE HYMN.

(By F. L. COMSTOCK).

My heart is beating wildly with the great delight I feel,
When I see our comrades striving with undaunted hope and zeal;
They will free the hapless toiler from the tyrant's grinding heel,
Our cause is marching on!

How the capitals tremble when they see our army strong;
When they hear the workers' voices ringing out in joyous song
For they know that Socialism will be realised ere long,
Our cause is marching on!

Though our army in this country is as yet, in number small
It has mounted over the rampart of the capitalist wall,
And the hand of the workingman will surely make it fall
Our cause is marching on!

Now our [illegible] will never suffer it to be
Till it hurl the tyrant system from off his lofty seat
And the cause of Labor has at last, become complete
Our cause is marching on!

Hear the voices of our comrades [illegible] Across lands across the sea,
Who are ready, yea to battle that we make the toiler free,
Let us help them in their struggle for the blessing Liberty,
Our cause is marching on!

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THE
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WHEN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS DUE.

Every subscriber will be notified by circular when his subscription runs out. The number of the last issue to be posted will be indicated.

Yes or No!

On the 20th of this month we will go to the ballot box and vote on the following proposition.

Are you in favor of the proposal of the Commonwealth Government for reinforcing the A.I.F. overseas?

What a cunningly worded statement. How are we to interpret it? Does it mean that there is a shortage of men at the front, that the enemy outnumber our boys, who are in danger of being decimated, blown to atoms; while they are waiting for Hughes to put a referendum before the peopleof Australia. A referendum that may be carried Yes or may be carried No, for the result of a referendum is uncertain. It may send the necessary reinforcements, or it may not. An Act of Parliament would have been quicker and more certain. Instead of adopting a method sure, quick and efficient, Hughes in submitting the question to a referendum is adopting a method indefinite and uncertain.

By not using a speedy means of getting reinforcements Hughes is either insincere in his demand for more men, or else he is deliberately betraying the men at the front. Which is it?

The Hughes Government was elected to win the war, and seeing that they have a large majority in both the Assembly and the Senate why do they refrain from putting the Conscription Act through the ordinary channel of Parliament? Is it because a majority of the Government's supporters are opposed to conscription, and will not give Hughes the necessary votes? Such would appear to be the case, more especially when we come to consider that the politicians have access to uncensored war news which the public are not allowed to peruse. The politicians are in the light, the people in the shadow in the matter of progress of the war, the first mentioned receive unpolluted news, the second are expected to be contented with a mental hash of quaint contortions, lies, and contradictions served up in the daily press. Therefore, why does the Government, who alone understand the position, wish to shift the responsibility for reinforcements on to the people? There is at least one or two reasons why. The Government has either no intention of winning the war, or the position at the front is such as not to warrant the introduction of conscription.

You are asked to believe that the men at the front are calling for reinforcements; that they are in peril. Hughes is the source of our belief. He is also the man who, instead of sending aid to the men in the trenches, asks the people for permission to do that which is his duty. We have given him power to reinforce the men, he tells us reinforcements are needed, and fails to use the power we have given him to supply the reinforcements. Thus his actions give the lie direct to his statements.

But contradicting himself is not a new accomplishment recently developed by Hughes. He has had the habit of saying "Yes" in one breath, and "No" in the next for quite a long time. Our Billy has told so many falsehoods, that people do not know when he is speaking the truth. A most unreliable person who compels us for our own safety, the safety of Australia to oppose him.

Knowing Billy Hughes to be the character he is, because he tells us to vote "Yes," we must vote "No."

H. Spencer Wood, 350 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Comin' Thro' the Dye.

ALLIED WAR AIMS.

C.F.C.

The following, showing some of the Allied War Aims, has been allowed to filter through during the past fortnight. Thus the Sydney "Sun," 26/11/'17:—

ENTENTE TREATIES.
DEMANDS OF FRANCE.
Problem of Annexation.

"The publication by the Maximalist Government in Petrograd of the treaties entered into by the Entente nations, reveals that as regards the future frontiers of Germany, **France demanded** and Russia concurred, the **return of Alsace-Lorraine,** also the **iron-ore and coal d'stricts** and the **wooded region on the left bank of the Rhine.** Moreover, **certain territories were to be separated from Germany** and freed from all political **and economic dependence,** being made a free and neutral state and occupied by Russian troops until certain conditions and guarantees are fulfilled and peace concluded."

Culled from the Sydney "Daily Telegraph":—

FRANCO-RUSSIAN AIMS.

Replying in the House of Commons to Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, Lord Robert Cecil (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs) said the agreement between France and Russia, under which **the west bank of the Rhine was to be taken from Germany,** was not made after consultation with Britain.

The "Sun" sheds further light on war aims in its issue of 27/11/17. Therein we read:—

SECRETS REVEALED.
RUSSIA'S ORIGINAL DEMANDS.

"A message from Petrograd states that a series of secret documents and telegrams published by the Maximalist Newsagency, includes **Russia's demands to possess Constantinople, the west coast of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the Dardanelles; Southern Thrace up to the Enos-Midia line; the Asiatic coast and islands of the Sea of Marmora, also the islands of Imbros and Tenedos.**

The Allies preferred claims demanding that Constantinople was to become a free port, and further demanding **the recognition of their rights over Asiatic Turkey** as well as the preservation of sacred places in Arabia under the Mussulman sovereignty, and the **inclusion of a neutral zone in Persia within the sphere of British activity.** Russia conceded this, opening the question that the Khalifate should be separated from Turkey, and bargaining for the retention of settlements in the Persian towns of Ispahan and Yemed."

The following is lifted from the Sydney "Daily Telegraph," 30/11/17:—

PUBLICATION OF TREATIES.

"A message from Petrograd says that an agreement made in the spring of 1916 and ratified in February 1917, between Russia, France and England has been published.

It gave Russia Erzerum, Trebizond, Bitlis, and Van vilayets (a vilayet is a province of the Turkish Empire). **France was to receive the seaboard of Syria, Adana, and the vilayet of Lesser Armenia and England was to receive Lower Mesopotamia, with special rights at Haifa and Jaffa.**

Between the English and French zones, there was to be an independent Arabian State. Alexandretta was to be a free port, and **Palestine would be a protectorate under Russia, France and England.** There was also to be a neutral zone in Persia, though Ispahan would be within the Russian sphere."

The "Telegraph" continues:—

"In the House of Commons yesterday, replying to Mr. Outhwaite, Lord Robert Cecil, Under-Secretary to the Foreign Office, said that it was not true that the secret treaties published in Petrograd revealed that the Allies were committed to vast territorial aggrandisement."

Following on these revelations, Lord Lansdowne's letter has caused a violent flutter in the capitalist dovecots.

"In concluding his letter," says the "Sun," "Lord Lansdowne said that the German peace party would be stimulated if they knew—

(1) That the Allies do not desire the annihilation of Germany as a great Power; (2) that the Allies do not seek to impose upon the German people a form of Government other than of their own choice; (3) that, except, as a legitimate war measure, the Allies do not desire to deny Germany her place among great commercial communities; (4) that the Allies, after the war, are prepared, with other Powers, to examine international problems, including freedom of the seas, and are fully prepared to enter into a pact for international arbitration."

In view of what the above treaties disclose, can you wonder that the "statesmen" of the Cabinet wherein Cecil sits—the Cecil who denies that the Allies are committed to vast territorial aggrandisement—can you wonder that these statesmen denounce Lord Lansdowne's letter as being "disastrously inopportune," and express their fears "that it will have the worst effect on public opinion?"

Labor Leaders Tinkers

By J.M.G.

The South African Industrial Federation in its wisdom (?) as the representative of organised Labour, has decided to approach the Government in all humility to stop profiteering, or illicit profits (when were profits not illicit)—a request on their part that will be as successful as trying to empty Rosherville Lake with a billy can.

This tinkering with our present form of society is futile and shows the amount of ignorance that prevails, as to the basis of society, but an ignorance that cannot be pleaded for the leaders of the Federation.

One of the fundamental principles at the root of society is production and distribution for profit. All commodities are the product of the labour powers of the workers for which they receive a money wage which on the average barely enables them to buy back enough of the product of their labour to maintain life. This method of production compels the workers to part with and lose control of the creation of their own skill and toil. The commodities, getting out of their control, are manipulated on the markets to create profits for the profit mongers. And when it is recognised that all Governments (the South African no exception) are the nominees of the capitalist class., nominees the workers are doped into returning as their representatives, there is as much hope for getting profits curtailed as of finding the proverbial snowball in Hades.

The Chamber of Mines has promised their assistance to curtail profits in the cost of those things necessary to life. Promises are easily made, but not always possible of fulfilment. Does it not strike the leaders of the S.A.I.F. that if the Chamber of Mines had had any power to keep down prices of material required for the production of gold they would have done so, and seeing they were powerless to curtail the rising cost of mining material what earthly hope have they of controlling the cost of living?

The economic mill grinds slow but sure, and the capitalist class must bow down to the driving force that propels society along the evolutionary path blazed by the economic forces controlling the destiny of society. As a class they may think they are all-powerful, but they are nursing a delusion; they are nothing, less than nothing before the mighty forces that are independent of individual or sectional control.

Profits being the object for which commodities are produced, buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, taking every opportunity of giving as little as possible to the purchaser for the largest return, taking advantage of the fluctuations of the markets, and, if possible, corner some commodity and make a huge fortune—success in these things, in squeezing profits out of the individual or community, is the hall-mark of respectability.

Such is society to-day, and it is imbecility on the part of any person or body of persons to raise the cry of curtailing profits. If these people are content to let society remain as a system of producing commodities for profits, let them realise they as workers and wage slaves, have a commodity to sell, their labour power. And let them organise in such a fashion that they will be able to demand a rise of wage that will keep pace with any rise in the cost of living—it is the only hope under the present system.

The cry to reduce the cost of living is the result of a want of an elementary knowledge of the economic foundation of society. And the ignorance has been fostered by that form of labour organisation which divides the workers into innumerable craft unions with the restricted outlook of their own parochial burrows, giving the mental kinks of craft and racial prejudice, to the detriment of the working class as a whole.

This restricted outlook must be swept aside, and the broader vision of humanity brought within the workers' mental vision, with the determination to stop chasing will-o'-the-wisps which have only landed their followers in the bog of despair.

To expect any relief from dependence on the capitalist class under the present system, is a dream that will have a rude awakening. The workers may crawl and creep and go cap in hand to the Government, to at best receive many promises that cannot be fulfilled even if promised in good faith.

Let them as workers recognise their power as being indispensible to society. They produce the wealth of the world and as producers let them have done with all these tinkering schemes to curtail profits, and organise as a lass to take control of the productive force in society, and produce not for an idle class of parasites, but to control the product of their labour, eliminating the profiteer, and thereby inaugurating the Co-operative Commonwealth.—"The International," South Africa.

The Socialist Pledge.

We have sworn a vow, we repeat it now;
While the red blood flows in our veins,
We will work and fight both day and night,
Until the wage slave break his chains.

We'll observe no truce, we'll face all abuse;
We will bring our Hammer down
On the capitalist plan and on every man,
Be he robber or rake or clown,
Who tries to prevent our recorded intent,
To weld our class into one,
That will vote—aye, and fight—
If need be, for the right
To enjoy what our labor has won.

"Proletarians, unite!"
With your votes win the fight;
"We have nothing to lose but our chains."
Take the Socialist vow:
Smash the robber class now!
And the prize? "We've the world to gain."

SOME TIME

Some time when right comes uppermost,
The old wrongs all will die;
Pure love will conquer evil hosts
And all their powers defy.
Then there will be no starving poor,
Begging the rich for bread,
Peace will unlock the prison door,
All will be clothed and fed.

Some time when right comes uppermost,
The land will all be free;
Price then will be the same as cost,
The good times them will be.
The right to home, the right to land,
The right to live and love,
The right to work with honest hands,
All men will then approve.

Some time when right comes uppermost,
Disease will disappear,
Both man and woman then will boast,
Of death they have no fear.
Pure temples full of living light,
Your bodies will become,
The blest abode where spirit bright,
Make a heaven within your home.

Some time when right comes uppermost,
Monopolies will fail,
Then capitalists no more will boast,
For labor will prevail.
United true hearts, strong and brave,
Combined for human good,
Will then make wealth become the slave,
Of one great BROTHERHOOD.

M. ZARIAH.

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Unemployment.

By H. Deafer.

Unemployed. What a world is hidden behind this single word; what a vision raises this unemployed; anxiety, bitterness despair, suffering, not only for him, the unemployed, but for his dependents as well. A cruel, ruinous state. Little innocent children, whose awakening mind needs moulding who need to their full physical and mental development the choicest food, the best of care, who are yearning (like a flower for sunshine), for a happy smile. What do they get? What crime did they commit, whose fault is it of theirs, that the father is unemployed, or is forced to buy (if any) inferior and often adulterated food, food which hinders full physical development and results in mental degradation?

Tell me, you self-satisfied hypocritical Pharisees, what fault of the little children is it that they have to suffer so cruelly. Tell me! You are quiet, you can't.

It's true you can't, to do so honestly, would condemn you as greedy, cruel heartless, diabolical, yes, diabolical, what else is it, when you, depriving men of the means of subsistence, put them against each other, put them back again on the animal stage, where the scramble for food rouses the brutish instinct of self-preservation, raising bitterness, envy, hate among the masses through the struggle for employment, and so divide the masses, but that is only what your heart is praying for; while with solemn faces and uplifted eyes (lest £ s. d. might be detected in it) your lips are muttering strange words of pity for lost souls, of love and brotherhood (of the fox and hare sort).

Hypocrites! You are only sincere in so far as you, by driving souls to despair give your—well, the parson, a charge to save souls and so prove that he is needful, knowing where his bread is buttered, he naturally is convinced of your needfulness.

To be honest your very (useless) existence depends on the disunity of the workers. You need an army of unemployed whom you can draw on occasionally, e.g., in time of prosperity at the same time enables you to keep the wages from soaring too high, e.g., check your greed a bit.

Knowing full well that your ideal consists only of £ s. d. you naturally are interested in keeping the reserve army fairly large, if not by straight, then by crooked means, but of course always lawful. New inventions, women and child labor, foreign or black labor, cheap, cheap is your prayer in the morning and at night. What matter whether the multitude suffers and dies; you are only alarmed when the army, growing rapidly, realises their position, then you know the growth must be checked, something like to-day's European fashion.

But why try to touch your heart? You are past redemption, the liberation of mankind can only be the honorable task of the working class. Free of the fetters which bind men to property, suffering all the agony which the liberation from poverty has in its train, the working class drops one after another of the old cherished idols, whose roots are in private property, till the most tenacious, brutish selfishness will at last be dropped, too, and then, free and unfettered, the worker will not only realise the necessity of unity and combined action, will not only realise the futility of throwing baseness and wickedness at the capitalist as a person, he will not only realise that the capitalist, just as the worker is the victim of conditions, there will dawn on him the grand, noble true spirit of labor, a labor the highest honor will inspire all, unemployment and misery will be a thing of the past.

Out of the ashes of the past will rise like a phoenix the dream and yearnings of past ages, the true brotherhood. The so-called disciples of the Prince of Peace, whose chosen task it was, to teach love to men, have lamentably failed, not that they are to blame, not born in average among the working class, and educated in a privileged class, not having experienced the hell themselves through which the working class is passing, they naturally are quite strange to the workers' mental world.

We have every cause to thank them. Blinded by prejudice and narrowmindedness, they themselves tore stupidly the veil of divinity from their occupation and revealed themselves in their ugliness and utter incompetence to teach, nay, even understand the spirit of their master; the task passed from them into the hands of the conscious working class.

Living the life of the great teacher over again, only the working class is able to fulfil the high task, not only to emancipate themselves, but to liberate mankind.



If Conscription is Carried!!!

Authorised by Ray Everitt, 115 Goulburn St., Syd.

20 Reasons for Women to Vote "NO"

(1) Because—
Whether Australia is to be permitted to defend herself against the curse of Conscription rests largely in your hands.

(2) Because—
You are responsible for one-half of the voting power of the Commonwealth. Dare you incur the responsibility of assisting to enslave it?

(3) Because—
In conscript countries children have been released from school to do war time work.

(4) Because—
By voting "Yes" you will conscribe boys who are not considered old enough to vote.

(5) Because—
What mother is there who would take it upon herself to control her son's destinies?

(6) Because—
The girls of Australia love freedom too well to shackle their men folk, or support those who would force them into the fields and factories for 12 and 14 hours a day.

(7) Because—
Every woman who remembers Nurse Cavell should resolve to end wars for all time, instead of prolonging them.

(8) Because—
You should remember during the late strike how women and children starved in Australia. If conscription is introduced, Unionism will be destroyed.

(9) Because—
Soldiers' wives are suffering acute distress.

(10) Because—
It is imperative that this enemy of the working class, i.e., conscription, should not be introduced in Australia, lest we be faced with worse horrors!

(11) Because—
Slavery, starvation, misery, for men and women and children, mark the path of militarism in EVERY conscript country.

(12) Because—
Though you cannot appreciate the horrors of war until you have seen them, no effort should be spared in ending it once and for all.

(13) Because—
Don't send another women's son to his death, is an argument which every true mother will listen to and follow.

(14) Because—
Don't send your sons lest they add to their fellow-workers dead, is a truthful expression of the thoughts of the Socialist Propagandists.

(15) Because—
Those who remind unmarried girls that it is their duty to vote their prospective husbands into the firing line, forget to add what THEIR lot will be under conscription.

(16) Because—
Under a woman has no status at all. She is turned into a mere machine to turn out munitions, etc. and nature as many boys as possible to help to fill the ranks of the Conscript Army.

(17) Because—
Those who tell you that because you cannot go yourself you should not be a party to sending another, are arguing from a humane standpoint, and urging you not to take a man's life into your hands.

(18) Because—
You, too, should fight in your own way. Thinking of the sufferings in the trenches, you should organise to abolish militarism and war for good.

(19) Because—
Your husbands, sweethearts, and brothers went to fight against militarism, are you going to set up in Australia what they are fighting to destroy in Europe?

(20) Because—
Conscription is merely a phase of the capitalist system, the economic conditions of which create war.

MARCIA REARDON.
115 Goulburn St.,
Sydney.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

Revolutionary Unionism

Speech Delivered by Eugene V. Debs at Chicago, November 25, 1905.

The unity of labor, economic and political, upon the basis of the class struggle, is at this time the supreme need of the working class. The prevailing lack of unity implies lack of class consciousness; that is to say, enlightened self-interest; and this can, and must and will be overcome by revolutionary education and organisation. Experience, long, painful and dearly bought, has taught some of us that craft division is fatal to class unity. To accomplish its mission the working class must be united. They must act together; they must assert their combined power, and when they do this upon the basis of the class struggle, then and then only will they break the fetters of wage-slavery.

We are engaged to-day in a class war; and why? For the simple reason that in the evolution of the capitalist system in which we live, society has been divided into two economic classes—a small class of capitalists who own the tools with which work is done and wealth is produced, and a great mass of workers who are compelled to use those tools. Between these two classes there is an irrepressible economic conflict. Unfortunately for himself, the workingman does not yet understand the nature of this struggle, and for this reason has hitherto failed to accomplish any effective unity of his class.

It is true that workers in the various departments of industrial activity have organised trade unions. It is also true that in this capacity they have from time to time asserted such power as this form of organisation has conferred upon them. It is equally true, however, that mere craft unionism, no matter how well it may be organised, is in the present highly developed capitalist system utterly unable to successfully cope with the capitalist class. The old craft union has done its work and belongs to the past. Labor unionism, like everything else, must recognise and bow to the inexorable law of evolution.

The craft union says that the worker shall receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. What is a fair day's pay for a fair day's work? Ask the capitalist and he will give you his idea about it. Ask the worker and, if he is intelligent, he will tell you that a fair day's pay for a fair day's work is all the workingman produces.

While the craft unionist still talks about a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, implying that the economic interests of the capitalist and the worker can be harmonised upon a basis of equal justice to both, the Industrial Worker says, "I want all I produce by my labor."

If the worker is not entitled to all he produces, then what share is anybody else entitled to?

Does the worker to-day receive all he produces? Does he receive anything like a fair (?) share of the product of his labor? Will any trade unionist of the old school make any such claim, and if he is bold enough to make it, can he verify it?

The student of this question knows that, as a matter of fact, in the capitalist system to-day the worker who produces all wealth receives but enough of his product to keep him in working and producing order. His wage in the aggregate, is fixed by his living necessities. It suffices, upon the average, to maintain him according to the prevailing standard of living and to enable him to reproduce himself in the form of labor power. He receives, as a matter of fact, but about 17 per cent. of what his labor produces.

The worker produces a certain thing. It goes from the manufacturer to the jobber, from the jobber to the wholesaler, and from the wholesaler to the retailer—each of these adding a profit, and when it completes the circle and comes back to the worker who produced it and he stands face to face with the product of his own labor, he can buy back, upon the average, with his paltry wage but about 17 per cent. of it. In other words, he is exploited, robbed of about 83 per cent. of what his labor produces. And why? For the simple reason that in modern industry, the tool, in the form of a great machine with which he works, is the private property of the capitalist, who didn't make it, and could not, if his life depended upon it, use it.

By virtue of his private ownership of

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Revolutionary Unionism.

Continued from Page 3.

the social tool—made and used by the co-operative labor of the working class—the employer has the economic power to appropriate to himself, as a capitalist, what is produced by the social labor of the working class. This accounts for the fact that the capitalist becomes fabulously rich, lives in a palace where there is music and singing and dancing, and the luxury of all climes, while the workingmen who do the work and produce the wealth and endure the privations and make the sacrifices of health and limb and life, remain in a wretched state of poverty and dependence.

The exploiting capitalist is the economic master and the political ruler in capitalist society, and as such holds his exploited wage slaves in utter contempt.

No master ever had any respect for his slave, and no slave ever had any love for his master.

I must beg you to indulge the hoarseness of my voice, which has been somewhat strained addressing meetings of the Industrial Workers held in and about Chicago during the last two or three evenings; but, fortunately, my eyesight has not been strained reading the accounts of these meetings in the capitalist papers of Chicago.

Alert, vigilant, argus-eyed as the capitalist dailies of Chicago are, there is not one of them that knows of this meeting of the Industrial Workers. But if this were a meeting of the American Federation of Labor and an old trade union leader were here, you would read to-morrow morning a full account of it and him in every capitalist paper in the city. There is a reason for this that explains itself.

The capitalist newspapers know that there is such an organisation as the industrial workers, because they have lied about it. Just now they are ignoring it. Let me serve notice on them through you and the thousands of others who flock to our meetings everywhere, that they will yet reckon with the Industrial Workers.

There are those wage workers who feel their economic dependence, who know that the capitalist for whom they work is the owner of their job, and therefore the master of their fate, who are still vainly seeking by individual effort and through their waning craft unions to harmonise the conflicting interests of the exploiting capitalist and the exploited wage slave. They are engaged in a vain and hopeless task. They are wasting time and energy worthy of a better cause. These interests never can and never will be harmonised permanently, and when they are adjusted even temporarily it is always at the expense of the working class.

* * *

It is no part of the mission of this revolutionary working class union to conciliate the capitalist class. We are organised to fight that class, and we want that class to distinctly understand it. And they do understand it, and in time the working class will also understand it; and then the capitalist class will have reason to understand it better still. Their newspapers understand it so well even now that they have not a single favorable comment to make upon it.

When the convention of delegates was in session here in June last for the purpose of organising the Industrial Workers, every report that appeared in a Chicago paper—capitalist paper I mean; every single report was a tissue of perversion, misstatement and downright falsehood. They knew that we had met for a purpose, and that that purpose was to fight the class of which they are the official mouthpieces. Now, it seems to me that this uniform hostility of the capitalist press ought to be significant to even the unthinking workingman. Capitalist papers are all quite friendly to the craft unions. They do not misrepresent them; do not lie about them! do not traduce their representatives. They are exceedingly fond of them, because they know enough about their own interests to know that the craft unions are not only not a menace to them, but are in fact bulwarks of defence to them. And why? Because, chiefly craft unions divide and do not unite the working class. And I challenge contradiction.

There was a time when the craft union expressed in terms of unionism the prevailing mode of industry. That was long ago when production was still mainly carried on by handicraftmen with hand tools; when one man worked for another to learn his trade that he might become its master. The various trades involved skill and cunning; considerable time was required to master them. This was in the early stages of the capitalist system. Even at this early day the antagonism between employer and employed found expression, although the employer was not at that time the capitalist as he is to-day. The men who followed these trades found it necessary in order to protect themselves in their trade interests to band together, form a union, so that they might act together in resisting the encroachments of the "boss." So the trade union came into existence.

(To be continued.)

Children and Conscription.

The conscriptionists tell us our honor is at stake in the present conscription question. We are told our dignity will be lowered if we do not vote in a manner that will compel all available men to take up arms. But suppose the men we are trying to coerce to take up arms think it dishonorable to do so. Suppose they imagine it wrong to shoulder a gun to aid in war in any way or manner.

Are we acting honorably if we try to make men do what they think to be morally improper? Surely we are not so depraved as to wish to save our honor at the expense of another man's honor.

Already a debt of over £200,000,000 has been contracted, a debt we will be unable to pay during our lifetime, a debt to be passed on to posterity.

Already over 100,000 men have been maimed, blinded, butchered and killed on the battlefield. Is this the price of our honor? Honor at the expense of the dead! Honor to be paid by babies unborn, is not honor at all!

Conscription is in vogue in England.

Sir James Foxall has stated that between 150,000 and 200,000 children between the ages of 11 and 13 have been released from school to do war time work.

Sir Edward Troup, permanent Under-Secretary at the Home Office, declares that punishable offences by children under 16 years of age have grown in 17 of the largest towns in England by about 40 per cent. He adds, "The increase in the number of juvenile offenders is mainly caused by an increase of nearly 50 per cent. in cases of larceny; but there are also more charges of assault, malicious damage, gaming, and offences against educational acts."

If we introduce conscription in Australia the majority of the male population will be taken out of the factories and sent to the front. Who will take the place of these men? Children, of course.

Do you want to prematurely load with the care, worry, sins, and follies of life, the little curly heads who gamble around your knee? Who bring your slippers when your day's toil is over? Are you going to turn a laugh into a sob drowned by the screech of factory machinery? Are you going to silence the little mouths that chatter to you their daily joys and trifling little troubles, which alight on your ears as soft music, and go deeper into your heart than even music can penetrate? Will you permit that little face to become old when it should be still young. Are those little child's limbs and muscles to develop into the fleshless bones of a puny, weak adult, or would you like your baby to grow into a buxom maid, a hale boy? If so, give the children's lungs a chance to breathe health and sunshine in preference to the polluted air of the factory.

If you place children to labor in the factories of Australia, when will you get them out? When! Oh when!

Child labor is cheap labor.

Employers and conscriptionists in every country tenaciously fight in defence of cheap labor. For they believe not in Christ when he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." The employers and conscriptionists go one better than Christ. They say—

Suffer the little children to come unto me,

For they are cheaper than men, you see.

Don't penalise the men and women of the future.

Give the children a chance by voting NO!

H. Spencer Wood, 350 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Sydney Branch is still immersed in the conscription campaign. The speakers have been putting the case from various platforms, and in every case have been accorded good receptions and attentive hearing.

Each Sunday night at the hall the burning question has been discussed. On Sunday night, 25th November, Com. Reardon lectured on conscription and finance. He had a packed house, and a deeply interested audience. The address was extremely interesting, the speakers dealt with the position of the great financiers with regard to conscription, showing how the wealth of the country was controlled by a few men, who through this means held the politicians in the hollow of their hands. He also described in a graphic manner the conditions prevailing in England, and before the introduction of trades unionism, and drew attention to the fact that with conscription would return all these evils, which it had taken years to even mitigate.

On Sunday, Dec. 2nd, Com. Quinton lectured on Conscription. He took up a clear anti-militaristic attitude, and stated in an emphatic manner that the only anti-conscriptionists were the Socialists, who were opposed to militarism in all its forms, and who had been gaoled for opposing the Defence Act passed by the Labor Party.

Comrade Quinton, who is a well known fighter in the movement, has been in Queensland for some time; we are glad to welcome him back, and hope that he will soon be right in the midst of activities, as speakers are badly wanted. Paper sales are continuing good, but sellers are badly needed; roll up all of you.

MARCIA REARDON.
Secretary.

YOU WANT SOCIALISM.

Because it will make the interest of each the interest of all.

Because it will provide conditions under which each may have the best of food.

Because it will enable each to have the best of raiment.

Because it will ensure each the best of dwellings.

Because it will guarantee to all the best of instruction.

Because it will provide amusement for all.

Because the children will have the opportunity of developing all their faculties, regardless of wealth.

Because humanity will cease the struggle against each other for wealth, but will wage their struggle against the force of nature for wealth.

SOCIALIST HALL
369 Pitt Street.

EVERY FRIDAY EVENING, DANCE.

LECTURE EVERY SUNDAY EVENING

ESSAY COMPETITION.

The winners of the November competition are: "Conscientious Objector" on "Thrift," and H. Deafer, on "Unemployment."

Essays published are not necessarily endorsed.

We have decided to give two prizes for the best two essays on two set subjects. The prize winners will have the choice of a book from the list that will be submitted to them.

The two subjects will be published in the first issue of each month, and the M.S.S. must reach this office before the end of the month.

The essays are to consist of not more than one thousand words.

Write clearly in ink and leave plenty of room for editing.

Head essay with "Essay Competition," followed by the subject.

The essays will be judged: 1st, according to matter; 2nd, on general structure. We are endeavouring to find thinkers, not grammarians.

The subjects for the competition ending January 31, 1918, are:—(1) "The Drink Evil"; (2) "Prostitution."

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS

Whosoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we know you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER AT LARGE, and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this office.

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.

All rebels making their way to the "Hill" will receive a welcome at the above address.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

47 Victoria St., Melbourne.

Library and Reading Room for members. Lectures held every Sunday Evening.

Economic Class every Wednesday evening Visitors welcomed.

MT. LARCOM.

Secretary, Chas. Jacobsen, Mt. Larcom, via Gladston.

NEWTOWN BRANCH.

Hall: Hatte's Arcade, King St., Newtown.

Library for Members.

Business meeting held alternate Thursday evening.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Hall: 369 Pitt St., City.

Library for members.

Lecture every Sunday evening.

Debating class held every Monday evening.

Business meeting every alternate Thursday evening.

Dance every Friday evening.

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Ancient Society—Lewis H. Morgan; cloth, 6/-; posted, 6/3.

Britain for the British—R. Blatchford; paper cover, 6d.; posted, 7d.

Capital—Karl Marx; 3 vols., 8/- each; posted, 8/6.

Charles Darwin and Karl Marx—E. Aveling; paper, 3d.; posted, 4d.

Economic Discontent—Father T. J. Hagerty; paper, 2d.; posted, 3d.

Economics of Socialism—H. M. Hyndman; cloth, 3/6; posted, 3/9.

Human Slaughter House—W. Lamazus; paper, 1/6; posted, 1/8.

Introduction to Socialism—N. A. Richardson; paper, 3d.; posted, 4d.

Love's Coming of Age—E. Carpenter; cloth, 1/6; posted, 1/8.

Landmarks of Scientific Socialism—Engels; cloth, 4/-.

Merrie England—R. Blatchford; paper, 6d.; posted, 7d.

Mutual Aid—P. Kropotkin; paper, 1/6; posted, 1/8.

New Socialism, The—R. R. La-Monte; paper, 6d.; posted, 7d.

Put up the Sword—Adela Pankhurst; paper, 2/6; posted, 2/9.

Positive School of Crimonology—Enrico Ferri; cloth, 2/-; posted, 2/2.

Principles of Scientific Socialism—Rev. Vaie; paper, 1/-; posted, 1/1.

Right to be Lazy—P. Lafargue; paper, 6d.; posted, 7d.

Socialism the Goal of Civilisation—paper, 2d.; posted, 3d.

IMPORTANT.

When ordering literature it is well to add the cost of registration (3d.). This is necessary to guarantee delivery.

Printed and Published by William Joseph Thomas, at 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney, for the Australian Socialist Party.

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